

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 NEA-10 NIC-01 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /149 W

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R 011450Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6870

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

DIA WASHDC

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 283

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MI, PINR, MOPS, MZ

SUBJ: GOM DENIES FRELIMO OPENLY TRANSITS MALAWI

REF: BLANTYRE 1046, 7/19/73

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. BLANTYRE DAILY TIMES MARCH 1 HEADLINE STORY ENTITLED
"FRELIMO ALLEGATIONS ARE FALSE," TAKES ISSUE WITH RHODESIA
"SUNDAY MAIL" STORY OF FEBRUARY 24 WHICH REPORTED FRELIMO
GUERRILLAS NOW TRAVELING OPENLY FROM TANZANIA THROUGH MALAWI
TO MOZAMBIQUE. SUNDAY MAIL STORY, ATTRIBUTED TO ARGUS EDITOR
WILF NUSSEY, CONNECTED GUERRILLA TRAVEL VIA MALAWI TO RECENT
ATTACKS ON MALAWI-BEIRA RAILWAY. GOM SPOKESMAN, SAYING HE
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ACTING ON INSTRUCTION OF PRESIDENT BANDA, LABELED SUNDAY MAIL

ASSERTIONS AS "FALSE, CRASS AND MISCHIEVOUS" AND SAID EFFECTIVE MALAWI IMMIGRATION CONTROLS AND WATCHFULNESS OF AUTHORITIES WOULD PREVENT SUCH MOVEMENTS. SPOKESMAN ADDED PORTUGUESE EMBASSY IN MALAWI WOULD HAVE MADE REPRESENTATIONS IF SUCH MOVEMENTS EXISTED. FIERY EDITORIAL ENTITLED "WE SAY THIS IS UTTER RUBBISH" BACKED UP LEAD ARTICLE AND CHALLENGED SUNDAY MAIL TO PRODUCE PROOF.

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2. SINCE BEGINNING OF FRELIMO ATTACKS ON MALAWI-BEIRA ROUTES IN JANUARY THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT INTERFERENCE WITH ROUTE HAS OCCURRED. GOM OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE ATTEMPTED DISCUSS ATTACKS HAVE DOWNPLAYED THEIR IMPORTANCE AS NORMAL ASPECTS OF "HOT WAR" AND TRIED TO DISMISS ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE FOR MALAWI. WE BELIEVE GOM IS IN GROWING QUANDARY REGARDING LONG-TERM FRELIMO INTENTIONS AND CAPABILITIES IN NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE, BUT IS TRYING CLING TO HERETOFORE SUCCESSFUL POLICY OF BALANCE BETWEEN TWO FORCES. ELEMENT OF LATTER POLICY HAS BEEN TO LIMIT PUBLICITY THEREBY REDUCING PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT GUERRILLA WAR SWIRLING AROUND MALAWI. HENCE ATTACKS ON MALAWI ACCESS ROUTES CONDUCTED BY FRELIMO SINCE 1971 HAVE SELDOM BEEN REPORTED IN MALAWI MEDIA. OCCASIONALLY GOM HAS LASHED OUT WHEN IT FELT BIASED ALLEGATIONS BEING MADE (AS WITH CASE OF MAY 1973 CANARD RE PORTUGUESE-MALAWI ARMY BORDER CLASH). IN PRESENT CASE MALAWIANS MAY FEAR ALLEGATIONS OF COMPLICITY WITH FRELIMO COULD HARM RELATIONS WITH PORTUGUESE, WHICH HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT TENUOUS FOR PAST YEAR BUT WHICH MALAWI CONSIDERS CRUCIAL TO ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF NATION.

3. FOR RECORD, FRELIMO AND MALAWI DO HAVE AGREEMENT KNOWN TO AND ACQUIESCED IN BY PORTUGUESE ON USE TO BE MADE OF MALAWI TERRITORY. FRELIMO IS NOT SUPPOSED TO ENGAGE IN TRANSIT OF ARMS OR OF UNIFORMED FORCES ALTHOUGH FRELIMO REGULARLY VIOLATES THIS PROVISION IN BORDER AREAS WHICH SMALL GOM SECURITY FORCES FIND IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTROL. DESPITE MANY RUMORS, EMBASSY TO DATE HAS DEVELOPED NO PROOF OF LARGE MOVEMENTS OF ARMS OR TRAINED FRELIMO UNITS DIRECTLY THROUGH MALAWI TO MOZAMBIQUE. ON OTHER HAND MALAWI PERMITS FRELIMO

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RECRUITMENT AMONG MOZAMBIQUAN REFUGEES IN MALAWI, ABOUT ONE TRUCK LOAD OF WHICH ARE DRIVEN NORTH TO TANZANIA FOR TRAINING EACH MONTH. WITHIN MALAWI GOM DOES NOT OBJECT TO MOVEMENT OF FRELIMO PERSONNEL OUT OF UNIFORM NOT BEARING ARMS. POLICY ESTABLISHED OBVIOUSLY LEAVES ROOM FOR VARIATIONS IN IMPLEMENTATION AND COULD COVER UTILIZATION OF TRUCKS RETURNING FROM TANZANIA TO INFILTRATE UNARMED, OUT OF UNIFORM PERSONNEL TO MALAWI'S SOUTHERN REGION.

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